THE FACTS ON CHILDHOOD DROWNING

NUMBERS

Every year¹ in the US, 3,572 people die from drowning, of whom 945 are children², accounting for 1 in 4 drowning deaths.

WHO?

Nearly half are infants and toddlers:
- Ages 0-4: 451 (48%)
- Ages 5-9: 129 (14%)
- Ages 10-14: 106 (11%)
- Ages 15-19: 259 (27%)

Boys account for 3 in 4 child drowning deaths.

While White³ children account for more than half of these fatalities, Black and AI/AN children drown at higher rates:
- 52% White
- 24% Black
- 18% Hispanic/Latino (H/L)
- 4% Asian/Pacific Islander (PI)
- 2% American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN)

This means they are significantly more likely to drown.

For every 1,000,000...
- WHITE children: 10.9
- BLACK children: 18.3
- H/L children: 8.3
- ASIAN/PI children: 8.1
- AI/AN children: 19.7

...will fatally drown.

¹Source: National Safety Council ²Source: CDC ³Source: CDC
WHERE

Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a **BATHTUB**

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in **HOME SWIMMING POOLS**

The likelihood of drowning in natural water settings (lakes, oceans, and rivers) **INCREASES WITH AGE**

NEAR DROWNING

For every child that drowns, **5 more** are treated in the emergency department for near drowning.

In the most severe cases, near drowning may lead to:
- Brain damage
- Memory problems
- Learning disabilities
- Permanent loss of basic functioning (vegetative state)

2.4% of children hospitalized for near drowning are transferred to rehabilitation hospitals

PREVENTION

Drowning can happen **QUICKLY and QUIETLY**

**FORMAL SWIMMING LESSONS** reduce the risk of drowning in 1- to 4-year-old children by **98%**

**FOUR-SIDED ISOLATION FENCES** that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child's risk of drowning by **83%** compared to three-sided fencing that encloses the house and pool together

Children should wear **LIFE JACKETS** on boats

Children should **ALWAYS** be actively supervised in and around water by a designated adult water watcher

MORE INFO

1 Average from 2010 through 2014
2 For the purpose of this infographic, children are defined as <20, toddlers are defined as 1 through 4, and infants are defined as <1
3 White, Black, Asian/PI, and AI/AN are non-Hispanic

For detailed sources and more information, visit ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org/infographics/drowning

July 2016
The Facts On Childhood Drowning

**Numbers**
Every year in the US, 3572 people die from drowning
945 of them are children

Children account for 1 out of 4 drowning deaths

**Who?**
Nearly half are infants and toddlers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Average Deaths per Year (2010 through 2014)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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Boys account for 3 out of 4 child drowning deaths

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<td>Asian/PI</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AI/AN</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

While White children account for more than half of these fatalities, AI/AN and Black children are significantly more likely to drown

For every 1,000,000
- White children, 10.9
- Black children, 18.3
- Hispanic/Latino children, 8.3
- Asian/PI children, 8.1
- AI/AN children, 19.7

will drown

**Where**
Infants under the age of 1 are most likely to drown in a bathtub

Most children ages 1 through 4 drown in swimming pools at home

The likelihood of drowning in natural water settings (lakes, oceans, and rivers) increases with age (CDC)

**Near drowning**
For every child that drowns, 5 more are treated in the emergency department for near drowning

In the most severe cases, near drowning may lead to brain damage, memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning (vegetative state) (CDC)

2.4% of children hospitalized for near drowning are transferred to rehabilitation hospitals (NIS)
Prevention

Drowning can happen quickly and quietly.

Formal swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning in 1- to 4-year-old children by 88% (Brenner, 2009).

Four-sided isolation fences that keep the pool separate from the house and yard reduce a child’s risk of drowning by 83% compared to three-sided fencing that enclose the house and pool together (CDC).

Children should wear life jackets on boats.

Children should always be actively supervised in and around water by a designated adult Water Watcher.


To see this on our website, visit: [http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/drowning](http://childrenssafetynetwork.org/infographics/drowning)

Additional resources:

[Water Watcher Card](http://safe-kids.org) | [Safe Kids Worldwide](http://safe-kids.org)

[Keeping Kids Safe in and Around Water: Exploring Misconceptions That Lead to Drowning](http://safe-kids.org) | [Safe Kids Worldwide](http://safe-kids.org)


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2. For the purpose of this infographic, children are defined as under 20, toddlers are defined as 1 through 4, and infants are defined as <1
3. White, Black, Asian/PI, and AI/AN are non-Hispanic